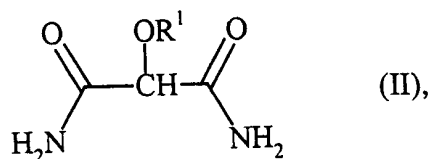


Claims:

1. A process for preparing alkoxyalononitriles of the general formula

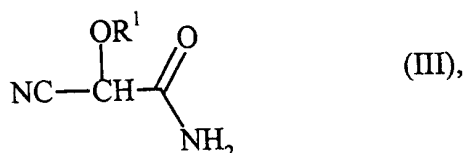


where R^1 is C_{1-6} -alkyl or halogen-substituted C_{1-6} -alkyl, characterized in that the appropriate alkoxyalonamides of the general formula

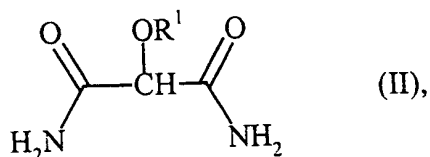


where R^1 is as defined above are reacted with a dehydrating agent.

2. A process for preparing 2-cyano-2-alkoxyacetamides of the formula



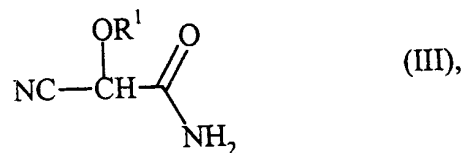
where R^1 is as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the appropriate alkoxyalonamides of the general formula



where R^1 is as defined in claim 1 are reacted with a dehydrating agent and the reaction is stopped before the reaction continues to 2-cyano-2-alkoxyacetamides (I).

3. The process as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the reaction is stopped by cooling the reaction mixture to $50-0^\circ\text{C}$.

4. The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the dehydrating agent used is trifluoroacetic anhydride, dibutyltin oxide, phosphorus oxychloride, phosphorus trichloride or phosphorus pentachloride.
5. The process as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the dehydrating agent is used in quantities of from 0.5 to 6 molar equivalent per amide group of the alkoxymalonamide (II).
6. The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the dehydration is carried out in a boiling solvent.
7. The process according to any of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the dehydration takes place in the presence of a Lewis acid.
8. The process as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the Lewis acid used is AlCl_3 .
9. The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that R^1 is methyl or trifluoromethyl.
10. A compound of general formula



where R^1 is as defined in claim 1.